

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for transport of molecules or energy across or into a biological barrier comprising:

a plurality of microneedles, each microneedle formed of a first material and a second material,

wherein the second material comprises rigid particles which are dispersed homogeneously throughout at least a portion of the first material or forms a portion of the microneedle and enhance the mechanical strength of the microneedles compared to microneedles formed without the second material. A device for transport of molecules or energy across or into a biological barrier comprising:

a plurality of microneedles, each microneedle formed of a first material and a second material,

wherein the second material is dispersed throughout at least a portion of the first material or forms a portion of the microneedle.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the first material is a polymer.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the polymer is a biodegradable polymer.

4. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(lactide)s, poly(glycolide)s, poly(lactide-co-glycolide)s, polyanhydrides, polyorthoesters, polyetheresters, polycaprolactones, polyesteramides, poly(butyric acid)s, poly(valeric acid)s, polyhydroxyalkanoates, degradable polyurethanes, copolymers thereof, and blends thereof.

5. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the polymer is a non-biodegradable polymer.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the first material, the second material, or both, comprise a metal.

7. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the first material, the second material, or both, comprise molecules to be released.

8. (Original) The device of claim 7, wherein the molecules to be released comprise a drug.

9. (Original) The device of claim 8, wherein the drug is a vaccine.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the second material is a salt or other leachable particle.

13-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, further comprising a substrate from which the plurality of microneedles extend.

23. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the microneedles have lengths between about 10 and 500 microns.

24. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, wherein the microneedles have widths between about 10 and 500 microns.

25-54. (Cancelled)